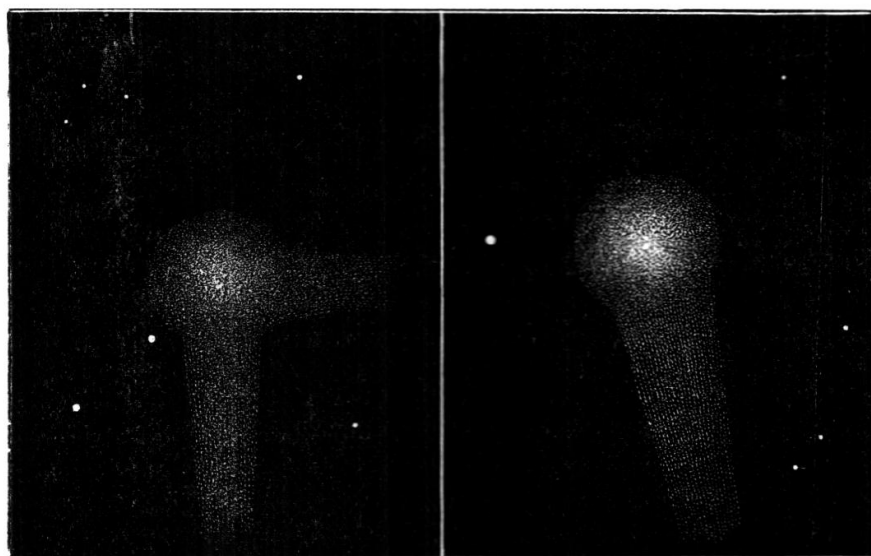


Discovery of Comet Brooks, 1898. By William R.
Brooks, M.A., D.Sc.

While sweeping the northern heavens with the 10-inch equatorial refractor on the early evening of October 20 I discovered a new comet. It was in the constellation *Draco*, and its position at 7^h standard, or 75th meridian time, was R.A. 14^h 35^m 10^s, declination north 60° 26'. The cometary character of the object was at once detected, and a few minutes only were required to detect its motion, which was found to be rapid and in a southeasterly direction. The comet was quite large, round, with bright central condensation, and at times a minute stellar nucleus was noted. This was best seen with magnifying powers of 80 and 120 diameters. The comet bore magnifying well.

The comet being circumpolar, I was fortunate to secure a second observation the same night in the morning hours through breaks in the clouds. Its position, October 20, at 17^h was R.A. 14^h 46^m 30^s; declination north 59° 32'.

The evening of October 21 was cloudy, but on October 22 the comet was at once picked up in bright moonlight, and at 7^h 12^m in R.A. 15^h 22^m 30^s, declination north 55° 52'. It was intrinsically brighter than at discovery, being a conspicuous object in the 10-inch refractor, and easy in the 3-inch finder in the



November 11.

November 15.

Telescopic Views of Comet Brooks, 1898.

presence of a half Moon. It was next observed on the morning of October 24, at 17^h 14^m, in R.A. 16^h 3^m 32^s, decl. north 49° 13'. The full Moon soon interfered with observations. In

the meantime the comet's perihelion passage was computed to occur on November 23, but the comet was moving farther away from the Earth. On the evening of November 2, at 6^h 40^m, the comet was observed in R.A. 17^h 20^m 40^s, decl. north 25° 11', when it appeared brighter than at the last observation, and the first glimpse of a broad short tail was noted.

On November 11, when the comet was in R.A. 17^h 52^m 40^s, decl. north 7° 54', two tails were plainly seen nearly at right angles to each other. The more prominent one was pointed away from the Sun, the second tail to the northward. A drawing of the comet is herewith given as it appeared on this occasion, and another drawing showing its appearance on the evening of November 15, when only one tail was visible with the optical power at my command, and that pointing away from the Sun. The comet's position on this date, November 15, at 7^h 14^m, was R.A. 18^h 0^m 40^s, decl. north 2° 33'. The comet at its brightest was just visible to the naked eye, and readily picked up with a good opera or field glass.

As a matter of record in the enduring archives of the Royal Astronomical Society, may I be allowed to say that I have now been permitted to reach "my majority" in cometary discovery, this latest comet being my twenty-first? Thirteen of these were made with reflecting telescopes, of my own construction, of 5 and 9 inches aperture respectively. The remaining eight comets were discovered with the 10-inch equatorial refractor of this observatory.

Smith Observatory, Geneva, New York, U.S.A.:
1898 November 26.

Observations of Comet Coddington (c 1898). By John Tebbutt.

I have much pleasure in transmitting observations of comet *Coddington* (c 1898), comprising 67 nights' work, from 1898 June 15 to October 18. They were made with a square bar-micrometer on the 8-inch equatorial. The differential coordinates are corrected for errors in the orientation and form of the micrometer, and for the comet's proper motion, but not for refraction, which was hardly sensible. The comet was small throughout, with a condensation in its centre, and admitted of pretty accurate observations. The concluded values of R.A. and N.P.D. are uncorrected for parallax. I fear the comet will be too faint for re-observation after the full Moon; but should I succeed in picking it up again I will forward the observations in due time.